



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kazuma AOKI

Group Art Unit: 2854

Application No.: 10/667,504

Examiner: W. Hamdan

Filed: September 23, 2003

Docket No.: 117278

For: PRINTING SYSTEM, PRINTING APPARATUS AND PRINTING METHOD

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the November 16, 2004 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species (a), with traverse. Applicant respectfully submits that species (a) corresponds to at least claims 1-3.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden.

See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 14, 2005

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